



# by any other name

the newsletter of the World Federation of Rose Societies' Heritage Rose Group

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"Aussie Sixer"

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As I write this in mid-April, roses in the Northern Hemisphere will be coming into flower in the warmer areas such as Spain, Italy, Texas, and California whereas in our Southern Hemisphere it is the time for our Autumn Shows, where we often have the best quality blooms for the year.

We have had good support from a number of knowledgeable contributors worldwide for the bulletin. They include:

*Shirley Yates and Jill Collins* from Australia have written of the roses they are propagating and gifting to the victims of bushfire.

*Odile Masqualier* from France on Roger Phillips's well deserved medal of the Member of the British Empire bestowed on him by H.M. Queen Elizabeth.

*Sheenagh Harris*, our W.F.R.S. President, gives us a report on the progress of the new collection of roses discussed in Gwen Fagan's brilliant book *Roses at the Cape of Good Hope*. It is to be at Bedford, east of Cape Town.

*Milton Nurse* from England discusses the famous Belgian garden at Chaumont-Gistoux.

*Charles Quest-Ritson* writes about Fantin Latour, the greatest painter of roses since Redoute.

*Sue Zwar* from South Australia, sends us an account on "Camawald" in Bloom, an open garden event that raised \$10,000 for the David Ruston Sculpture Appeal.

*Bill Grant* from U.S.A. writes on Roses of California.

*Pat Shanley* has sent a wonderful account from the East Coast of America of 'Great Rosarians of the World'

Lost Beauties member *Raphaella Langerberg* submits an article on the great rose Sombreuil, still shrouded in mystery.

*John Hook* is an Englishman who moved to the warmer climate of France with his wife to grow Teas, Noisettes and China Roses. They now have one of the largest collections in the world – a mecca for those wanting to grow lesser-known varieties.

*Viru Viraraghavan* from India writes to us about his lovely new Tea Rose that he has bred.

For some time I have been thinking of how much our President Emeritus of the W.F.R.S., the Baroness Lily De Gerlache, has contributed to the W.F.R.S. since she called a meeting in London in 1968 and became our first President. The Baroness attended almost all the Triennial Conventions for nearly thirty years, and was the President of the Belgian Rose Society for well over thirty years, judged at Rose Trials all over Europe, and had a wonderful Rose Garden filled with both old and modern roses and a huge library of rose books and is still very interested in our activities. The Baroness's health is not good and she cannot travel very much,

however her daughter attended the Vancouver Convention, and reported to her each evening.

I am delighted to be able to report that the Belgian Rose Society is writing a "Little Booklet" on their dearly loved President and it should be available towards the end of the year. It is interesting to note that the Baroness's father was the President of the Belgian Rose Society before her, and that her daughters are very keen rose gardeners.

After the Plebiscite on the World's Favourite Tea Roses where Lady Hillingdon was put first in South Australia and third in the World, we are having a party in her honour, to celebrate her ladyship's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. We hope to all wear Victorian or Edwardian dress for the occasion at the Garden Party, with a very English Afternoon Tea. All I hope is that my twelve bushes trimmed for the occasion flower on time.

Fifty-three from Australia are about to head to China to the convention in Changzhou, north west of Shanghai. Lectures that include using more Species in rose hybridization should give us fascinating material for our next bulletin later in the year.

Then of course we will get more information from the Heritage Rose Conference in Sakura next year. I do hope many of you can come to this because it will be four years since we saw the Old Rose Garden at the end of the Osaka Conference in 2006. It was a magic garden then, but will have matured to its maximum by then.

We are delighted that Sheenagh Harris has accepted our invitation to unveil the sculpture at our 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Rose Festival at Renmark on October 16<sup>th</sup> 2010.

*David Ruston,  
Chairman, WFRS Heritage Committee*

## Roses for bushfire survivors

*by Shirley Yates and Jill Collins, Australia*

Members of Heritage Roses in Australia were anxious to do something to help those who have lost homes and gardens in the catastrophic bush fires on 'Black Sunday', 7<sup>th</sup> February 2009.

The project really began when my son heard the story on the radio of a lady from Marysville who had lost a garden with 100 year old roses – and told me I should do something about it! Many heritage roses are hard to find in nurseries these days so we thought we might be able to replace them for people by taking cuttings and growing them. We can post roses in winter when they are dormant so this seemed a way that members from all states of Australia could help.

Some members took cuttings last autumn and we hope these will be ready to plant next winter (2010) and can be posted out. In February/March our offer to grow cuttings of replacement heritage roses was posted on websites and letters were written to as many contacts as we could think of.

It seems that in late August our offer of help came to the top of the pile. There was a response from the Bushfire Recovery and Reconstruction Authority and they were really interested in the fact that people were willing to grow roses and included our offer in an e-letter to all case managers (all survivors had a case manager appointed) and the phone calls and emails have been coming in thick and fast.



before...

... and after





We now have approaching 170 requests – and they have come from all areas affected by the bushfires. It is mostly the case managers making contact and then we follow up with their clients – so we know these are all genuine responses. Such sad stories – but all of them have been so thrilled to think someone out there wants to help them as they go about re-building their lives – and in particular replace some of their roses. Some people will not rebuild and will move on but would love to replace some very favourite roses in their new homes. Some are still wondering what to do, as their insurance claims are not yet settled. Some are still at the planning stage. Some are now back living on their land in sheds or vans, and are looking out at the black devastation and wondering where to begin. But twelve months on we are beginning to see large numbers of houses being rebuilt.

We were a little overwhelmed and had to quickly think through some guidelines. We were offering “heritage/historic/heirloom roses” but of course many people are not aware of the distinction and were coming in with long lists of modern Hybrid Teas and lots of David Austin roses. Many of the clients did not know the names of their roses – and many of course had lost all their information! Many had old roses on their properties which they had never identified. We began to offer a “surprise” parcel of old garden roses to be sent out next winter to each client – and we would endeavour to include any specific requests. Everyone we speak to is quite delighted with that idea. This seemed to be the most practical way to be able to match the growers of cuttings with the recipients – although I must admit it is going to be like a giant crossword puzzle! The parcel may include heritage climbers, big old ramblers or shrub roses, and some old and rare Hybrid teas.

We have asked clients to let us know any specific requests for old roses and whether they are interested in climbers or large ramblers, or if their situation needs either large or small shrubs – and we will try to accommodate their needs in sourcing the surprise parcel. For this we really need to have client names, addresses, phone numbers and emails (if available) so we can give addresses to our members to post out roses to people in the future. We are keeping records so we can make contact with clients during the year as we realise many current addresses are not permanent so we appreciate having permission to keep these records.

The survivors of the fires are so thrilled that some other rose lovers out there care, and they make us feel very humble, particularly when we hear their responses such as:

You have made my client's day

What a lovely thing to happen

Some become tearful when they are told of the offer:

Thank you so much we had only bought our home (our first home) 6 months prior to the fires so it was all a bit of a shock. Know that it is people like you who remind us that we are not in this alone and that we are continually supported in what has been the most trying time of our lives.

I still think this idea of Heritage Roses is one of the nicest ideas and while I know it has created a lot of hard work it is already making difference to the people I work with. When the roses are blooming they will be a lovely reminder of the thoughts that were sent out with each cutting.

Regards J.S Case manager

We have recently had more regular rainfall in Victoria than over the past 10 years or so and there is now regrowth in bushfire affected areas. The rootstock of roses has come back really well! There are a few reports of old roses on their own roots surviving. But of course many areas of gardens were bulldozed in clearing, and there is nothing to come back. These gardeners are devastated as they continue to look at the destruction, and are finding it very hard.

All survivors report that gardens and plants are not covered by insurance so it is a real struggle to buy replacement plants when you have lost everything. For those who still have a house but whose gardens were destroyed there is no recompense – and there are many of them. Many gardens died after the fires from the extreme heat even though they were not actually burnt. Some had gardens of 2 acres/20 acres etc. and had hundreds of roses, and some had very small gardens but grieve for a lost rose that was given to them for a special reason. There are several memorial gardens in the planning stage, but it will still be some time before they require actual planting – probably 2011/12. In our conversations we have learnt of one being planned in Marysville where three family members died. They are not rebuilding and their one acre block will be planted as a memorial garden. The Marysville Historical Society was burnt down and there is interest in planting a heritage garden when it is rebuilt.

The rose continues to have a strong emotional impact for people. We have requests for roses to plant where the pets were buried. There is the story of the 15 year old girl whose three friends died and she wants to have a rose bed with a pink, white and a yellow rose – one for each of her friends. So often the requests we have are for roses that celebrated special events – like the birth of each child, weddings, birthdays etc. – or the memory of loved ones. For one lady receiving the rose offer was the first time she had really thought about her beloved garden as she struggled with the loss of her home and injury to herself and family. This project seems to be helping with loss in a way that perhaps cannot be met in other ways.

In December we posted out to each client a past copy of the HRIAI Journal with a letter explaining about our association. There was always an excess of copies from our days as executive so it seemed a positive way to use them. By mid December the requests were still coming. Indeed as I write this mid-January I have had four more this week. Realistically – as our numbers have increased – we are not certain we will have the hundreds of cuttings we need for 170 parcels ready to send out bare-rooted this coming winter and any requests we receive from now on may have to wait

until 2011. Since mid-December we have been explaining to new clients that cuttings will probably not be available until 2011. They need time to grow and not all will be successful! (My first batch of 100 developed an excellent fungus – grew a lovely soft fur- and had to be destroyed!). However houses are suddenly springing up everywhere and many more people are now back in sheds etc on their land. So I can imagine that the urge to create their garden will be strong. It seems important to be able to get as many parcels together for this winter as we can.

Although we began with the concept of propagating for replacement (which really touches the hearts of the bush fire survivors) there is no harm in thinking of other options. Several people have said they are unable to propagate cuttings but would like to help in some way. One member opened her garden and has donated the proceeds of \$650 and there are several other offers of donations. Some of this will be used to have budding done of rugosas, species, mosses, and other roses that sucker or are “difficult to strike”. We will possibly need to help with postage or delivery in some other form where large numbers of plants are being grown for us. We have also discussed the possibility of buying some bare rooted stock from some of our local growers to supplement the numbers for the surprise parcels. It would be an added bonus to support our growers who are all finding it tough – even if we go to them and buy excess bare rooted stock of heritage roses in July.... Any donations to help fund this would be greatly appreciated.

Wish me well with my next batch of cuttings. I have had lots of excellent advice so I will keep trying.... We are now attempting to collate lists of cuttings being grown by our members, requests from clients and some idea of the time that people will be ready to replant their gardens – which I am sure is very individual.

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October 2009, rebuilding



Our interest in roses began in earnest in the early 1980's whilst living in the Pacific Northwest of the United States. We had a small nursery specialising in perennials – *Nomansland Nursery* – and became acquainted with a great rosarian, Mike Darlow. As his collection was inspiring and his enthusiasm for old rose varieties was infectious, we soon had a garden full of them. We ended up moving back to England in 1991, abandoning our garden and nursery, but felt ready to start afresh in a new location.

We moved to the South West of England, with a mild and fairly damp climate, where we set about creating another garden. Along with the more traditional old garden roses we began to get more interested in the Teas and Noisettes, having been particularly inspired by Dickerson's book *The Old Rose Advisor*.

Unhappily, these did not thrive in the British climate, the summers being too short and too cool. After many frustrating years of this we were ready to make a big change, so we decided to do what we had thought about for a long time; to start a rose nursery focusing on roses bred for warmer climates. We would create a garden and comprehensive collection as a basis for our stock, but this meant we would need to head south as we couldn't do this successfully in the British climate.

In 2001 we moved to southwest France, where we had purchased an old farm with 18 acres, this was more than enough land to establish a collection and set up a nursery. Situated 50km north of Pau and 100km east of Toulouse, the climate is somewhat oceanic with winter lows around – 10°C and summers regularly in the high 30s with infrequent high humidity. The soil is heavy siliceous clay. This climate is very similar to the climate of South Carolina in the USA

Our collection is planted out in a display garden consisting of five terraces sitting on just over 1.5 acres of ground with long arbours and several pergolas to support the climbers. Our propagation material is taken from these stock plants. All of our nursery stock are grown on their own roots in pots. This is a common practice in the U.S.A but is rare in Europe. The roses we grow seem particularly suited to this practice.

We specialise in warm-weather roses, specifically Teas, Chinas, Noisettes and Hybrid Giganteas, but we are also interested in the Banksias and Chinese species. Over the past 50 years most of these roses have been widely neglected in Europe. Today, there are very few nurseries which offer them here in Europe, or at least an extensive range of them.



A key reason for their loss in popularity was that during the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the United Kingdom became a dominant influence in gardening, coinciding with the rise in popularity of the Hybrid Teas, which thrived in the cooler British climate. Many garden writers of this time were critical of these warm weather roses, and recommended changing to the Hybrid Teas, and understandably so, as the British climate was not really suitable. Unfortunately, these views were exported to the warmer areas of Europe too, and so the popularity of the Teas, Chinas and Noisettes waned, despite the fact that the HTs were not well suited to the heat of Southern Europe. Slowly, but surely these wonderful roses which were bred mainly in France during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, were abandoned. Many of these varieties have been lost or misnamed over time and we feel that this group deserves much more attention.

Much has been written on the origin of these types but because new information has become available I will briefly give an overview of them:

### Chinas

The first recorded imports were to England during the 18<sup>th</sup> century, but there is a good possibility that there were recurrent Chinas in Italy before this. It has been assumed that the breeding of recurrent roses began in Europe at this time, but new knowledge indicates that the Chinese were breeding them well before the Ming Dynasty.

### Teas

Most articles inform us that the original Teas were bred from 'Hume's Blush' and 'Parks Yellow.' Although these two roses were the principle studs, it now appears that French breeders were importing other Chinese roses from Italy, and probably using these in their breeding, which would explain the great number of variations. Unfortunately little documentation has been discovered in Italy. Later Bourbons were introduced, which added even more diversity.

### Noisettes

The early Noisettes followed along the lines of 'Blush Noisette' but there was also a group of Bourbons that were also called Noisettes. These were a cross of 'Mlle Blanche Laffitte' x 'Sapho' mostly bred by Lacharme. They were small-flowered and bloomed in clusters.



They are often sold as Noisettes today. There is also a group of repeat flowering Hybrid Moschatas in the vein of 'Nastarana' that are also put under this classification. The Tea Noisettes were a cross of these roses with Teas: generally, this produced a climbing rose very similar to a climbing Tea

### Hybrid Giganteas

The breeding began in Europe in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, and they were also being bred in Australia at about the same time, however it now appears that, yet again, the Chinese were at it before anyone else.

Our collection is continually expanding; currently we have about 260 varieties of Tea, around 110 Noisettes, 75 Chinas and 30 Hybrid Giganteas. There are several reasons for the collection. To try to popularise these roses in the warmer climates of Europe, to compare on one site the different clones and attempt to verify their identity, and also to compare the same named roses from different continents.

In addition we collect foundlings of the above types, and feel these need more attention.

As we enlarge our collection we hope it will be easier to identify the foundling roses. This is a very inexact task, but we feel that if after extensive research a foundling matches a rose that appears extinct there is not much harm in applying this name, as long as the source of the identification and study name are kept. Care though, must be applied when a foundling is identified as an existing rose. This can cause both plants to be integrated. If the identification is wrong then one clone is in danger of being lost. To give an example, 'Fortunes Five Colour' and 'Smith's Parish', we will continue to differentiate between these two until genetic testing is performed, to clarify the matter.

Being a small nursery, we grow limited numbers of as many varieties as possible. This year we will be offering around 50 Chinas, 130 Teas, 60 Noisettes and 20 Hybrid Giganteas. Our aim eventually is for all of the collection to be available for sale.

We couldn't have built up this collection without the enormous help of friends around the world and would like to mention them.

**Helga Brichet (Italy)** is always handing us new gems. Recently she has donated her collection of found roses from China including the newly found 'Humes Blush' from Laos, she has also let us plunder her garden.

**Viru and Girija Viraraghavan (India)** have supplied us with their collection of Hybrid Giganteas as well as other choice material such as a long lost 'Mme. Falcot'.

**Prof. Fineschi (Italy)** a selection of Teas only existing in his garden

**Vicki and Isabelle Ducrot (Italy)**

**Odile Masquelier (France)**

**Roland Bielski (Germany)**

**Etienne Bouret (France)** the missing teas and Noisettes in our collection from L'Hay

**Di Durstan (Australia)**



# Graham Stuart Thomas & the Origins of 'Fantin Latour'

by Charles Quest-Ritson

For most of his working life, Graham Stuart Thomas was a nurseryman and, as such, he was keen to promote plants that could be sold in large numbers at high prices. His championship of old roses did not spring from any sense of conservation, but because they could be sold as fashionable accessories with a high mark-up. That is not to say that Graham did not *like* old roses – on the contrary, he absolutely *loved* them – but he was a commercial man who did not let his heart rule his head.

The list of 'Old Fashioned Roses' that Graham Thomas issued immediately after World War II was largely derived from the collection of roses amassed by Messrs G. Beckwith & Son. Some of Graham's roses also came from the list of Edward Bunyard who, before his premature death in 1939, was universally regarded as the English authority who knew more about roses than anyone else.

One of the surprises I unearthed when researching Graham Thomas's biography – the book will not come out until late in 2011 – was the appearance of 'Fantin Latour' in Bunyard's list of roses for the 1938-1939 season. I had always supposed that this rose was introduced by Graham, and I rather thought that he claimed credit for the introduction too. But no, a rose called 'Fantin Latour' appears quite unequivocally in Bunyard's list of new introductions.

In fact, Bunyard introduced, or re-introduced, some ten new roses in his 1938-1939 catalogue, including four cultivars that he described as Hybrid Perpetuals. Two of these are worth our notice – the one described as 'Fantin Latour' and the other as 'Best Garden Rose'. Here is Bunyard's description of 'Fantin Latour':

Lovely cupped pink flowers in great profusion. A variety to let go of its own will and make a 6-ft bush clothed to the base. Moderate scent. Vigorous.

Does this sound like the rose that we grow today as 'Fantin Latour'? I say No: our 'Fantin Latour' does not have cupped flowers and its scent could not be described as 'moderate'.

Here, then, is Bunyard's description of 'Best Garden Rose':

An unknown old H.P. which a very distinguished amateur has kindly allowed us to introduce. His opinion is expressed in the temporary name here given. Strong scent. Strong growth.

As descriptions go, this must rate as one of the most inadequate ever given. It does not even tell us what colour the flowers are, let alone their shape or how they are carried. All it tells us is that 'Best Garden Rose' is vigorous and strongly scented.

Graham's description of the rose he introduced as 'Fantin Latour' comes in *Old Shrub Roses* (1955) where he wrote that it 'clearly had Centifolia flowers' (rather a

surprising observation, you might suppose) but that the leaves showed 'signs of China Rose smoothness'. Had he seen examples of the sort of old/new hybridising that David Austin was to undertake in the 1960s he might have revised his idea of where 'Fantin Latour' belongs from the taxonomic point of view. But it is his description of where the rose came from that comes as a real shock:

I found it in one garden where its name was unknown, labelled 'Best Garden Rose', and as such it is worthily named after the great French artist. So far I have been unable to trace the name in any book.

And nor have I: 'Fantin Latour' does not appear in rose literature until Thomas introduced it in 1945. Bunyard's catalogue is the only earlier reference.

What seems barely credible is that the idea that the rose Graham introduced as 'Fantin Latour' was actually the one that Bunyard called 'Best Garden Rose'. How could this have come about? There is no doubt that Graham knew and possessed Bunyard's 1938-1939 list. And it is known that he bought every rose he could from Bunyard, to build up Hilling's collection.

One theory is that he grew both roses, realised that 'Best Garden Rose' was the better of the two, but thought that 'Fantin Latour' was the better name. We know that he dropped nearly three-quarters of the roses he acquired from Beckwith – Graham was ruthless in his selection of roses for their commercial potential – and it is therefore possible that he destroyed his stocks of Bunyard's 'Fantin Latour' and transferred the name to the more commercial variety. And yet I doubt it; Graham was a meticulous hunter down of the correct names of old roses, not a man to mislead the whole horticultural world so cynically.

There is another complication, which I discovered when poring through the ledgers of new plants introduced into the RHS gardens at Wisley year by year. In September 1939, Colonel F.C. (later Sir Frederick) Stern sent cuttings of 'Fantin Latour' from his garden at Highdown to Wisley; they were transferred to the Howard's Field nursery, beyond the arboretum, where the RHS had for several years been building up a large collection of old roses. Was Stern's 'Fantin Latour' the same as Bunyard's? If so, why did he send the RHS material of a rose that was already in commerce? Stern would have known that Bunyard always gave Wisley anything that he thought the RHS might like. We cannot visit Wisley to study to Stern's 'Fantin Latour', because the entire collection (including some living holotypes of Chinese species) was destroyed by Francis Hanger, Curator of Wisley from 1946 to 1961. He removed all the roses from Howard's Field and did not bother to replant or replace them.

There are lots of questions that remain unanswered. Who was the 'very distinguished amateur' – a man – who gave Bunyard the original stock? Colonel Stern



was just one of many garden-owners who sent interesting 'old' roses to Bunyard in the 1930s. Why did Bunyard indicate that both roses were Hybrid Perpetuals when the 'Fantin Latour' that we know flowers only once? Bunyard's descriptions lack taxonomic detail. Had the labels on the roses that grew in Graham's 'one garden where its name was unknown' been transposed? And if Graham himself deliberately transposed the names, why did he not cover his tracks rather better? After all, there will have been many people in 1945 who still had Bunyard's 1938-1939 catalogue and remembered that Bunyard's 'Best Garden Rose' and 'Fantin Latour' were different cultivars.

It is a pity that no-one undertook the rather basic research that I did to discover the possible provenance of 'Best Garden Rose' some ten years ago when Graham might have been able to shed some light on the

problem. But I have found from studying his life and writings that Graham's memory was sometimes unreliable. He once told the TV journalist Peter Seabrook that the RHS had acquired Bunyard's entire collection of roses. That was not true – Bunyard sent a few roses sent to the RHS but by no means all of them; nor was his collection sold by his executors – they kept his business going after his death, which required them to hold onto his stock. Nor is there any trace of Bunyard's collection in the ledgers of new plants at Wisley. There is more research to be done, of course, but the chances of finding Bunyard's own records of where he found either of these two roses are very remote, while Hillings's archives and most of Stern's have long since been lost. 'Fantin Latour' remains, for the time-being, a rose of unknown origin.

## Encounters with Roger Phillips

*by Odile Masquelier, France*

In 1996, it was April in California when we first met at a breakfast table. We were attending the Huntington Heritage Rose Conference, Roger Phillips as famous writer, photographer, surrounded by his jovial and cheerful aura, and I, as completely unknown little Frenchie, was lost among all these garden celebrities who'd known each other for so long.

We were both speaking the next morning, along with Sally Allison, Bill Grant, Ralph Moore but I didn't dare to really introduce myself, and just admired the friendly way Roger shared his fantastic knowledge and his acute sense of reality.

Later we met several times, either at the Chelsea Flower Show, at a meeting in St Albans, or attending a conference.

When Roger and Martyn Rix came to Lyon, we invited them to stay at La Bonne Maison. For hours they went through the garden, Roger shooting roses after roses, Martyn writing their name on a little notebook, so that Roger could take a picture of the name just after the rose. This day, I learnt that a rose without an exact name was only a waste of time. Since Roger is a connoisseur and Georges, my husband, has a good wine cellar, we had a great time with wine and roses, before I asked them both to sign all their books.

Years later, giving a talk one evening in St Albans, I was surprised to see Roger who kindly had come to support me. He was returning to London right away and when I asked him if he could give me a ride: "yes but in a hurry", was the answer; "I have to collect my daughter tonight at her boarding school". I then realised that Roger still had a teenaged daughter, not the easiest age, and my admiration and gratitude grew in proportion.

Another time, in l'Hay les Roses, a renown 1900 rose garden near Paris, several people were busy taking pictures, flitting excitedly like bees from one rosebush to another; the light was perfect, blooms were at their peak. Not very far from me, Roger was snapping away, when I heard him swear, loudly. He had run short of film! I still had 2 or 3 rolls left and they were Fuji 50 ASA, just what Roger needed. A knowing smile was my reward.

When I planned the 1999 World Heritage Rose Conference in Lyon, I asked Roger to be our Key Speaker, and we all enjoyed his talk, telling us stories and adventures with Martyn in China, and especially the famous discovery of 'Lijiang Road Rose'.

Six years later in Dunedin, New Zealand, Roger, always mindful of captivating his audience, included dancing and singing in his presentation, and it worked wonders for a while, until the most important of discovered Chinese roses, supposed to be flashing scarlet according to Roger's words, appeared vivid blue on the screen. The computer had betrayed Roger's Power Point, but the audience burst out laughing and clapping, thinking it was a joke! A very good sport, Roger laughed and went on speaking.

Even jet lag cannot hamper Roger Phillips' enthusiasm: I remember one occasion when we'd all arrived in Christchurch NZ from London and while we Europeans were all longing for a nap, he rushed down the hill to shoot pictures until dusk, only getting back just in time for a drink.

# Old rose sanctuary in Bedford, South Africa

*by Sheenagh Harris, South Africa*

In 2007 a group of South African Old Garden Rose enthusiasts on a rose tour organised by Sheenagh Harris visited rose gardens in Italy and France and attended the Heritage Rose Society Convention in Chaalis. Inspired by gardens such as Ninfa and Maresa del Buffalo's in Italy and the Heritage Rose Society meeting in Chaalis, Wendy Kroon (World Representative for S.A. Heritage Rose Society), Barbara Long (Chairman of the Heritage Rose Society of South Africa), and committee members Kim van Niekerk and Michele Basson realised the importance of the preservation of these precious old plants. They returned filled with enthusiasm and determination to start a sanctuary to preserve the old garden roses available in our country. They were also aware of the importance of the educational aspect of such a garden which included teaching concepts, historical lineage of flora, conservation principals, preserving the earth and nurturing nature. It would then be possible for schools and tertiary institutions to use the facility for research and propagation techniques, apart from the tourism aspect.

Bedford in the Eastern Cape was the obvious choice for this garden with so many true gardeners and rose lovers living in the area and the conditions are ideal for roses. The decision was to base the initial collection on Dr

Gwen Fagan's extensive research on Old Roses found in the Cape which is clearly documented in her book *Roses at the Cape of Good Hope*. Gwen is the doyenne of Old Rose knowledge in South Africa, has invaluable information to pass on, and understands the need for preservation, conservation and teaching. Gwen, a landscape gardener with vast experience in this field, has kindly agreed to design the garden in keeping with the surrounds and sympathetic to historical heritage.

The first move was to find an appropriate piece of ground, and with no funds available, the offer by St Andrew's Anglican Church in Bedford to have the Sanctuary in their extensive grounds was tempting. However, the Comyn property that offered ownership in 12 years time and many other assets was agreed to be a better option. The Comyn property is 6000 sq metres, with the use of a large shed and 1,000 l of water per day and there is an existing borehole that can be upgraded. Gwen Fagan visited both sites and her comments were about the Comyn property were:

1. The earth itself has an attractive long shape with the backdrop of a hill at the far end.
2. Along the one boundary is a rivulet, which adds attraction when it runs. A rose hedge on its bank will provide permanent low cost boundary security.



The refurbished Old Stone Jail, venue for the Rose Repository opening ceremony



3. The soil appears to be fertile judging by present plants growing there.
4. There are many beautiful young trees on the property, which are not too big to transplant into groups according to a new landscape plan, while existing well established mature trees will provide support for climbing roses.
5. A new security entrance with its concomitant building could be well situated on the street boundary and this can be secured from the sidewalk with a rose hedge.

Because of the mature trees, good soil, water and the attractive hill at the far end of the vista, it is felt that a very beautiful rose garden can be planned and that it will come to maturity much sooner than a garden on the barren church ground.

The Old Rose Sanctuary Group would dearly like to own the property and will have to seek ways and means to fundraise in order to achieve this goal but with the generous offer of 12 years of free use the layout of the garden can start. It is felt the work and effort that will go into this venture must be for posterity.

It is the vision of the Old Rose Sanctuary Group to cultivate enough new roses, to supply the Comyn property and the church property in time.

The Old Rose Sanctuary Project was officially launched on the 21<sup>st</sup> October 2009 by Sheenagh Harris, President of the World Federation of Rose Societies, in the refurbished old stone gaol which gave the perfect atmosphere for this exciting occasion. Kim van Niekerk opened the function by explaining the concept to the 90 assembled guests who showed approval and enthusiasm. Dr Gwen Fagan had travelled up from Cape Town especially for the launch and gave a talk on the tenacity of Old Roses. Wendy Kroon, who travelled from Graaff-Reinet closed the proceedings with her words of encouragement and support.

In Sheenagh Harris' opening speech of the Old Rose Sanctuary in Bedford, she said,

this is probably the most exciting happening in the rose world of South Africa since Gwen wrote her superb book – *Roses at the Cape of Good Hope* – which of course is all about the discovery of the very same Old Garden roses for which Gwen scoured cemeteries and old farms. Having found and identified them, they are scattered all over South Africa. It is now so very necessary to offer sanctuary to a comprehensive collection of these beautiful flowers so that they can be preserved for future generations – sanctuary in a central and easily accessible place for them to be catalogued like books in a library.

I can think of no better place than Bedford with so many true gardeners and rose lovers living here and all willing to give of their time and expertise to develop the Sanctuary.

In most rose loving countries of the world there are Heritage Rose gardens designed especially for Old Garden Roses and they are quite separate from the modern rose garden.

This will be the first Heritage or Old Rose Garden in South Africa.

Congratulations to our members of the Heritage Rose Society who have had the courage and foresight to promote this wonderful concept.

I visualize this garden as being a place of learning, where rose lovers can come to enjoy and discover roses they have only seen portrayed in books. With this, the only sanctuary for old garden roses in South Africa, it will undoubtedly be a tourist attraction and will no doubt bring more and more people to the enchanting town of Bedford.

A similar garden in England, Mottisfont Abbey houses the old rose collection of one of the world's greatest rosarians, Graham Thomas. Visitors flock in droves to Hampshire to revel in that beautiful place where old roses are loved and cherished. There are similar gardens in France and Italy and now South Africa is poised to join their ranks to ensure a sanctuary where these roses will thrive. No longer will one have to visit graveyard sites to see them or save them from extinction.

I know that the Heritage Rose Society of the World Federation of Rose Societies would give you their blessing and every encouragement to carry out this exciting project.

My very best wishes to you in this enterprising endeavour and I hope to bring a Heritage group to Bedford in 2012 after the World Convention being held in Sandton.

This is a national project, and a call has gone out to all gardeners to keep an eye out for old roses growing in gardens, round abandoned buildings, on fences, in graveyards and sometimes in open countryside.

Anyone interested in helping with finance for this Sanctuary of Old Roses, please contact:

Kim Van Niekerk at [gecko@eastcape.co.za](mailto:gecko@eastcape.co.za)



Gwen Fagan at the Opening Ceremony

## *"Camawald in Bloom" a resounding success*

*by Sue Zwar, Australia*

A Special Events weekend held 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> November 2009 at *Camawald* as part of Australia's Open Garden Scheme was a resounding success with over 500 people attending and about \$10,000 being raised for the David Ruston Sculpture Appeal.

*Camawald* is a rural property situated in Coonawarra in the South East of South Australia, and is owned by John and Sue Zwar. The garden covers approximately ten acres and consists of many trees both indigenous and exotic as well as approximately a thousand roses.

The South East Branch of the Rose Society as well as the David Ruston Sculpture Committee worked tirelessly to ensure that the many stalls were well stocked, and with the ideal weather – albeit rather warm – all combined to make for a wonderful weekend.

The guest speakers were a popular draw card with Kelvin Trimper and Peter Burton, rose experts from the Adelaide Rose Society, talking about rosy topics each morning and giving away sample products from Neutrog.

During the afternoon David Ruston and his accomplished helper, Danny Hoffman, entranced the audience with the magnificent flower displays they put together. Not only did they make seven arrangements for their attentive audience each day, they also managed to decorate thirty rustic implements placed in strategic places around the garden for visitors to admire. David brought down many of the flowers he used from his own garden in Renmark, but he was also very grateful for the magnificent perennials picked from Mt Gambier gardens as well as buckets of roses donated by Brian Wagner, a local rose nurseryman.

Overseas visitors included Trish Schooley (nee Reschke), a former Coonawarra identity now living in USA, who very kindly donated some of her exquisite greeting cards featuring scenes around *Camawald* garden, for sale as an added fund raiser. Other folk came from as far afield as Adelaide, Melbourne and the Riverland region as well as Sue Zwar's family – from Bali, Canberra and Perth.



David Ruston and Danny Hoffman

On Saturday evening ninety-five garden enthusiasts enjoyed a relaxed dinner at the Coonawarra Hall with Coonawarra Club catering for the night.

The David Ruston Sculpture is being constructed by artist Janine Moore and will be unveiled by WFRS President, Sheenagh Harris, during the Renmark Rose Festival in October 2010.



flowers arranged on a plough – this arrangement was done before the garden was opened to the public



an arrangement in an old washing machine placed next to an old farm buck rake



## "A most unusual rose garden

by Milton Nurse, England

There cannot be many municipal rose gardens – especially those of small country villages – that are worth going out of your way to see, but the Roseraie Communale of Chaumont-Gistoux in eastern Belgium is exceptional. Hidden behind a police station and council offices, it has one of the largest collections of rare and unusual roses in Europe.

I say hidden, but one side of the garden is open to the public road and faces the village primary school. However, there are no orderly beds of brightly-coloured flowers to draw one's attention and shrubs planted on this side of the garden help obscure the fact that there are masses of roses of all descriptions growing here. It is the fruit of 18 year's work by one man, Ivan Louette, granted permission to develop the garden by an enlightened municipality.

The 6,000 sq metre (1.5 acre) garden consists of three distinct areas — the greater part of an old orchard, the inner court of the municipal building, and a plot behind the police station. The old orchard constitutes the heart of the rose garden with the greatest number of species and cultivars (in particular the roses bred by Louis Lens but not released commercially). The roses most sensitive to cold or requiring greater summer heat are planted behind the police station – where the glossy green leaves and creamy-white flowers of a vigorous 'Cooper's Burmese' contrast well with the red brick of the building – while the inner court harbours a collection of perennials, including some rarely seen novelties.

The rose garden takes in several different collections: there are representatives of the great groups of roses cultivated from ancient times to the present, species roses from all parts of the world, and roses selected for their genetic interest. Among the latter are many Hybrid Musks and hybrids of species developed by the great Belgian breeder Louis Lens, a number of cultivars obtained from seed within the garden itself and others from the gardens of collectors or amateur breeders. These collections continue to be added to through the gift of Louis Lens roses, species from around the world obtained in exchanges with botanists abroad and used in research, Canadian wild species received from the Montreal Botanic Garden with the aim of obtaining new varieties, and from similar sources.

The adventurous and imaginative approach to rose breeding shown by Lens is mirrored in the breeding programme of the Chaumont-Gistoux rose garden. Less usual species are used, as well as cultivars largely neglected by other breeders. A very beautiful Shrub rose with impressively long sepals was the result of a serendipitous cross between *Rosa rugosa* and *Rosa palustris* and has been named 'Coriandre'. Some striking roses have been obtained by crossing *Rosa gallica officinalis* with early Hybrid Teas such as 'Etoile de Hollande' and 'Guinea' and many crosses

have been made using the *Rosa chinensis* cultivar 'Mutabilis' as one of the parents.



*Rosa gallica officinalis* x Etoile de Hollande

The friendship and help of Lens is acknowledged in Louette's lovely climber 'Louis mon ami', one of the roses bred here which is now obtainable commercially. Others include the Hybrid Musk 'Petite de Terre Franche' – listed in the latest edition of *Modern Roses* – and the early-flowering semi-double climber 'Fontaine des Loups'. Some of the cultivars are offered free of charge to rose nurseries who wish to try them out, and either distribute them or use them in breeding. The amateur breeder is not neglected, however; use of the garden's large genetic base is offered, as well as help in the selection of disease- and weather-resistant varieties.



Bokaru

Concern for the environment has led Louette to eschew the use of herbicides, pesticides or other substances which might undermine this commitment. This

approach has forced him to collect only those varieties which are resistant to or tolerant of disease and this in turn has driven him to select from the garden's own seedlings those which are best adapted to the soils and climate of its region. The garden now has a large genetic base of varieties resistant to disease under local conditions.



Paula Vapelle

Louette began his career as a graduate in the visual arts and he claims that the close attention to shape and form which this taught him has stood him in good stead when trying to determine the likely ancestry of roses and relationships between them. Post-graduate courses in systematic botany and in plant geography as well as an extensive study of botanical literature (including ancient writings) have helped Louette acquire the knowledge which has made him a respected authority in the field.



Patricia Beucher

He says that he continues to learn. Research undertaken for the rose garden and its associated displays has brought contact with the scientific staff at the Belgian National Botanic Garden and knowledge of the tools they use, such as the library and the herbarium. The rose herbarium of François Crépin, which is held there, had not been the subject of serious study for more than fifty years when he came to study it although it amounts to one of the most important tools in the world in this field.

Regular exchanges with scientific establishments and rose professionals bring first-hand information

concerning botanical aspects of the rose, its history and cultivation but also horticultural know-how of a high level in general. Since 1999 the garden has been collaborating in research into the genetics of roses being undertaken at the universities of Lyon and Chiba (Japan) by compiling the literature, studying both the living plants within the communal rose garden and the herbarium specimens at the botanical garden and, in addition, establishing hypothetical parentage based on morphology. Both living specimens from the garden and dried specimens from the herbarium are selected and sent to the university laboratories for DNA analysis.



Coriandre

Despite all this high-level scientific work, the garden is no dreary laboratory but a living treasury of beauty and delight. Just as one of the highest accolades a restaurant guide can give a hostelry is to say that it is "worth a detour", so one can confidently say to anyone visiting Belgium in the rose season that Chaumont-Gistoux is "worth a detour".



Chaumont-Gistoux roses rampant

Milton Nurse is the Editor of the Historic Rose Journal, the magazine of the RNRS Historic Roses Group



## Cl. Sombreuil – a bourbon rose?

by *Raphaella Langenberg, Germany*

There is a great debate over the true identity of this rose “Climbing Sombreuil” alias “Colonial White”:

Some years ago I read in a US forum the suggestion that it might be the lost rose “Bloomfield” from the American breeder Thomas. Two or three characteristics in the Jaegers rose lexicon seemed to be similar to the description of Bloomfield in there, but in the meantime I think this theory is quite unlikely, simply because Thomas has bred more with RH and tea roses than with bourbons.

Climbing Sombreuil possesses many features of a bourbon rose. The habit of thick, upright canes and at the bottom in a low angle, nearly parallel to the ground shoots growing side shoots.

The form and fullness of the blooms reminds of Souvenir de la Malmaison, also the form and size of the ovary and form, colour and distribution of thorns and the big, glossy foliage, which is at the beginning dark red and at age dark green. A further characteristic is the enormous bloom in autumn and late autumn.

Certainly has this rose some tea rose influence, you can see it at the yellow middle when it starts to bloom. If we look at typical tea roses with more gigantean-/chinensis- and less bourbon-influence one can see the differences immediately: sorts, like the real Mme de Sombreuil, the ground shoots are considerably gracile and wiry, the sides shoots are positioned in a wider angle to the ground shoots, the foliage is smaller and more elegant (often it is more spiky). The overall impression on the whole is more tender, smaller, more elegant and branched.

The smell is, besides a tea- and lemon-share, a hint of the sweet and banana-like smell of Souvenir de la Malmaison. According to another US theory it should have also some scent of apples which appears in my opinion only in wichuraiana-tea-breedings, not with wichuraiana itself. I cannot recognize it with Climbing Sombreuil. Also, in the habit I see no affinity to the wriggling, airy shoots of most wichuraiana-hybrids.

It would be a good idea (during cosy winter nights) to study Dickerson’s Old Rose Advisor or Jaegers rose lexicon to find which relatively late breeders bred with tea and bourbon roses and which of these flesh-coloured or aurora-coloured climbing roses are lost.

The chances that the real name will be tracked down are not too bad!

## Miriam C. (Walsh) Wilkins

*Obituary notice*

Miriam Wilkins created a new world for those who love old roses. In the 1970s she organized the Heritage Rose Group in the United States for those who loved old roses and species roses. The national rose societies had ignored these roses for many years, and it was her work to awaken interest in them that created a big audience of them, and not only in the United States. Over the years other countries followed, establishing their own groups: Les Roses Ancienne in France; Heritage Roses in Australia, and also New Zealand; the Historical Rose Group in England, and others.

*Bill Grant, California*



**Miriam C. (Walsh) Wilkins**  
Resident of El Cerrito

Miriam C. (Walsh) Wilkins, beloved wife and mother, died on November 6, 2009, at 91. She was a remarkable woman, who left behind her a legacy of work popularizing Old Garden Roses, as well as her family of four children, six grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. She was also active in the Animal Rights Movement for a number of years. She was married to her husband Dick for 66 years, until his death in May of this year. They met when they were juniors at Richmond High in 1934 and married during WWII, while he was serving in the U.S. Navy. She was a native Californian and a resident of El Cerrito for almost all of her 91 years.

Miriam grew up during the Depression. From the age of 8, she and her sister were raised almost single-handedly by their Norwegian immigrant mother. It was a constant struggle for the family, and that experience taught her the importance of responsibility and generosity. Those qualities, as well as her kind, self-sacrificing, self-effacing personality, would stay with her for the rest of her life. She could also be zealous, however, in her support of underdogs, animals, and her favorite political causes.

She graduated from San Francisco State College with a B.A. and a teaching credential in 1939, and taught elementary school for 3 years in Novato and 3 years at Fairmont School in El Cerrito. When the war ended, she “retired” from teaching to begin raising a family. Later, while her children were still in school, she went back to work as a substitute teacher in the Richmond Unified School District for another 10 years.

Still later in life, at age 56, Miriam took up an interest in Old Garden Roses. She placed a small, national notice inquiring about other Old Rose lovers, and from that small beginning, she started the Heritage Roses Group in 1975, the biannual Old Rose’s Digest, and the quarterly Rose Letter. For many years, she was also the creator and inspiration for the Celebration of Old Roses, which is still held each May at the El Cerrito Comm. Ctr. Her own garden held more than 1000 varieties of Old Roses at one time, and many other rose lovers from around the world came to visit her there. She, herself, visited many other gardens in the U.S., Europe, and New Zealand. For her work on behalf of roses, she was honored in 2003 as one of a select group of Great Rosarians of the World. The El Cerrito City Council also selected her to the city’s Wall of Fame in December, 2008.

Miriam is survived by her four children: Richard A, Lynn Larkin (James), Alan (Barbara Sheehy), and Anna; by their children: Jessica Wagner (Michael), Jeremy Storrs (Sarah), James Larkin, Erin Sheehy, and Brendan and Emily Wilkins; and great-grandchildren: Nathan, Jack, and Evan. She is also survived by her sister, Thelma Behrens, of Chico, CA. Her death is a great loss to her family and many friends.

# 2010 Great Rosarians of the World™ Lecture Series

by Pat Shanley, USA

**The Great Rosarians of the World™ Lecture Series**  
**2010 – East Coast** will be presented in New York  
Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, on June 11-13, 2010.

## 2010 Great Rosarian of the World™ David Austin



David Austin with Clair Martin – photo by Priscilla Ferguson

The 2010 Honoree will be **David Austin**, the hybridizer of English Roses and founder of David Austin Roses, Albrighton, Wolverhampton, UK. Mr. Austin began hybridizing roses on his farm in the 1950's and introduced his first rose, 'Constance Spry' in 1961. The commercial success of this rose convinced him to focus more of his time developing new roses, and he established his nursery in 1969 on his family farm in Albrighton. The Austin Rose catalog, *Handbook of Roses* is now in its 37<sup>th</sup> year and is published in multiple languages, and Mr. Austin has authored a number of books including *The English Roses* and *The Rose* both of which have gone through numerous editions.

Mr. Austin has spent his hybridizing career developing roses that combine the strength, hardiness, fragrance, and the flower shapes of the Old Garden Rose classes with the health and re-blooming characteristics of modern remontant roses. His fame as a hybridizer came in the 1980's with the introduction of roses like 'Graham Thomas', 'Mary Rose', and 'Abraham Darby' all of which launched him onto the world stage. Nearly a half-century later his English Roses are popular world wide for their contribution to garden landscaping as well to the rose garden.

Over the ensuing years he has introduced nearly 200 of his English Roses and now with offices in the United States, Russia, and Japan, his creations are available

worldwide. The David Austin English Roses have helped gardeners develop a new appreciation for roses as landscape plants.

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to celebrate one of the world's great rosarians, it has taken us nearly ten years to coax Mr. Austin away from his nursery and roses to speak in the US. Seating is limited for this special event so please order your tickets early.

To celebrate this occasion, there is a wonderful line up of events planned including an Art Exhibition of the works of Maria Cecilia Freeman and the long-awaited unveiling of the new, revised, enlarged, hard cover edition of *The Sustainable Rose Garden*. A Wine & Cheese reception will complete the Friday afternoon event, at **The Horticultural Society of New York**.

**The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual New York Metropolitan Rose Council Dinner**, with our 2010 honoree as Guest of Honor, will take place on Friday evening. This event is typically attended by outstanding Rosarians from all over the world and is held at the fabulous restaurant, Opia, overlooking the fashionable 57<sup>th</sup> Street panorama. This dinner is sponsored once again this year, by **The Conard-Pyle Company, Star Roses**.

At the dinner, we will present the **2010 GROW™ Rose Garden Hall of Fame Award to The Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden, The New York Botanical Garden**. Through the vision of Peter Kukielski, Rockefeller Curator, the rose garden has undergone a tremendous renovation and transformation into a sustainable public rose garden, representing an outstanding collection of historic roses.

**The Great Rosarians of the World™ Lecture Series 2010 – East Coast** – will be a full day event, presented on Saturday, June 12, 2010 at **The New York Botanical Garden**. It will include a morning panel discussion entitled "**Sustainability GROW(s)™ Up!**" The panel will consist of **Peter Kukielski**, Rockefeller Curator of Roses, The Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden, The New York Botanical Garden; **Clair Martin**, Shannon Curator of Rose & Perennial Gardens, The Huntington Botanical Garden, San Marino, CA; **Mike Shoup**, owner of **The Antique Rose Emporium**; **Marilyn Wellan**, 2009 Great Rosarian and past president of the American Rose Society; **Jeff Wyckoff**, President of the American Rose Society; and **Hillary Merrifield**, co-author of *Tea Roses – Old Roses for Warm Gardens*.

The panel will be followed by the lecture by **David Austin**, and the award presentation. The day will conclude with a reception in his honor in the beautiful **Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden**. There will be "Jazz & Roses" music provided by Parlor Entertainment, a New York City based Jazz Trio, during the reception.

On Sunday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, we will present a morning program featuring three of the authors of *Tea Roses – Old Roses for Warm Gardens* at **The Queens Botanic**



**Garden.** This wonderful volume was given the **2009 World Federation of Roses Literary Award.** The program will center on Tea Roses suitable for gardens in the Northeast and Rose Identification. Immediately following the lecture will be a tour of newly renovated Rose Garden by the Curator, Karl McKoy.

Details and registration information for all events can be found at the end of this article.

The Great Rosarians of the World Lecture series was originally conceived in 2001 by Clair G. Martin, III, Shannon Curator of the Rose & Perennial Gardens, The Huntington Botanical Garden, San Marino, CA as an annual lecture series to honor notable Rosarians from around the world and provide them with a forum to present their work to a broader American audience.

The goal of this event is to invite major figures in the world of roses, authors, hybridizers, nurserymen, and scholars and ask them to present a program that would offer gardeners the opportunity to acknowledge their accomplishments and to honor their work creating and promoting our chief love, The Rose. In only nine years, the event has become famous worldwide.

Past honorees have included notable figures in the world of roses such as Peter Beales, Ralph Moore, Miriam Wilkins, Roger Phillips and Martyn Rix, Peter Harkness, Viru and Girija Viraraghavan, Wilhelm Kordes, III and William J. Radler, Marilyn Wellan and Stephen Scanniello.

In March of 2007, for the first time, this event was bicoastal with the award and lectures first presented at The Huntington Botanical Garden and one week later in New York. Hosting botanical gardens on the East Coast have included the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and The New York Botanical Garden. This year, in addition to the participation of The New York Botanical Garden, we are proud to include the Queens Botanic Garden as the newest member of The New York Metropolitan Rose Council and a hosting garden. The New York Metropolitan Rose Council is an informal affiliation of Botanical Gardens, Nurseries and Local and National Rose Societies. Together the council seeks to increase the public's awareness of the importance of the Rose and to also to grow our respective organizations. The Great Rosarians of the World Lecture Series East Coast is made possible through the collaboration of The Huntington Botanical Garden, The Manhattan Rose Society and The New York Metropolitan Rose Council. The West Coast Lecture Series took place earlier this year at The Huntington on January 23-24, 2010.

Please join us for this special program that celebrates Roses and Great Rosarians.

*Portions of the above article were taken from the GROW website [www.greatrosarians.com](http://www.greatrosarians.com)*



## **GROW EAST COAST LECTURE SERIES 2010 Program**

Friday, June 11, 2010

2:00pm–5:00pm: Art Exhibition featuring the works of Botanical artist, Maria Cecilia Freeman; the unveiling of the new, revised and enlarged edition of *The Sustainable Rose Garden*; Wine & Cheese Reception

The Horticultural Society of New York  
148 West 37<sup>th</sup> St., 13<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY  
Admission free to Members and Guests

The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual New York Metropolitan Rose Council Dinner.  
Guest of Honor – David Austin – Great Rosarian of the World 2010 Recipient

Presentation of The Great Rosarians of the World™ Rose Garden Hall of Fame Award to The Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden, The New York Botanical Garden

6:00pm: Reception

7:00pm: Dinner immediately following the reception

Opia, 130 East 57<sup>th</sup> St., New York, NY  
\$100 Members & Guests registering by April 30, 2010  
\$125 Members & Guests registering after April 30, 2010

For reservations please contact  
Pat Shanley, 516-759-1435 / [pshanley@aol.com](mailto:pshanley@aol.com)  
Reservations and pre-payment required.

Saturday, June 12, 2010

The Great Rosarians of the World™ X Lecture Series  
The New York Botanical Garden  
Full-day program (10:30am – 6:00pm)

*Morning Session: 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.*

The Arthur and Janet Ross Lecture Hall at the Botanical Garden.

Panel Discussion - "Sustainability GROW(s)™ Up!"  
Featuring internationally distinguished rosarians.  
*See above for details*

*Afternoon: 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.*

Award Presentation and Lecture featuring – David Austin!  
Reception in The Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden  
immediately following. "Jazz & Roses" Music provided by the Parlor Entertainment Trio

*To register or for more information, visit [nybg.org/edu](http://nybg.org/edu) or call 718.817.8747.*

Adult Education at The New York Botanical Garden

Sunday, June 13, 2010

10:00am – 11:30am: From Australia!! – Three of the Authors of *Tea Roses – Old Roses for Warm Gardens* – Billy West, Hillary Merrifield, and Lynne Chapman will present a program on Tea Roses and Rose Identification – followed by Q&A.  
11:30 am – 12:30pm: Tour of Rose Garden.  
a boxed lunch will be available for additional charge

Queens Botanical Garden, 43-50 Main St., Flushing, NY 11355  
[www.queensbotanical.org](http://www.queensbotanical.org)

Registration: \$20.  
Call 718-886-3800, Education Department

# 2010 Great Rosarians of the World™ Garden Hall of Fame Awards

*by Clair G. Martin & Pat Shanley, USA*

The **Great Rosarians of the World™** organizing committee is pleased to announce the selection of three outstanding rose gardens as our 2010 inductees into the Great Rosarians of the World™ Rose Garden Hall of Fame.

Our first 2010 honoree is the **Rose Garden at Peter Beales Roses, Attleborough, Norfolk, UK**. Set in an English country style the rose garden occupies three acres and features roses that are allowed to attain their mature size. The garden is laid out with rooms featuring diverse elements with a koi pond, pergolas, arbors, and archways covered with roses. Peter Beales Rose Garden is recognized as the National Collection of Rose Species. The Great Rosarians™ award recognizes Peter Beales and the Rose Garden, for his dedication preserving the wide diversity of roses and displaying them in a natural and open setting.

Our second 2010 honoree is **Mottisfont Abbey Rose Garden** a property of The National Trust located in Hampshire near Southampton. Mottisfont Abbey was a former priory with historic ties back to Saxon days. After becoming a National Trust property the former walled kitchen gardens were turned over to Graham Stuart Thomas who planted these walled gardens with his personal collection of historic shrub roses starting in 1972. The current rose garden contains over 300 cultivars of old-fashioned roses planted in beds lined by clipped boxwood hedges filled with roses and companion plants. Arches span walkways and the former kitchen garden's brick walls are covered with climbing roses and clematis. Mottisfont Abbey Rose Garden is being recognized for the depth of its collection of Old-Fashioned roses, the excellence of horticultural practices, and the importance of maintaining this invaluable collection for future generations of rose lovers.



the North Gate, the Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden  
– photo by Peter Kukielski

Our third 2010 honoree is the **Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden** at The New York Botanic Garden, New York, NY. This garden was designed in 1916 by renowned landscape designer Beatrix Jones Farrand, and completely rebuilt to her original design in 1988, thanks to the generosity of David Rockefeller. It is the only surviving New York City garden designed by Beatrix Farrand. The Rose Garden, more than an acre in a dramatic, triangular design with 83 beds of roses radiating from a central circle and a planting area of over 19,000 square feet, showcases a broad and diverse collection.

In 2008, under the direction of Peter Kukielski, Rockefeller Curator of The Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden, a renovation of the garden was undertaken to “increase disease resistance and become as chemically independent and organically minded as possible while creating a beautiful, continually blooming rose garden for the six month growing season.” Over 1,800 plants were removed and replaced with disease resistant varieties from the leading hybridizers of the world.

David Austin, 2010 recipient of The Great Rosarian of the World™ award and the hybridizer of English Roses, contributed his latest efforts in hybridizing that are especially disease resistant and well suited for the Northeast. An entire “English Rose” border was redesigned and installed using these varieties.

An entire collection of Bill Radler’s work was donated by The Conard-Pyle Company, Star Roses. Bill Radler is the hybridizer of the famed ‘Knock Out’ rose. To date, this hybridizing effort has produced fourteen varieties. All varieties are planted in The Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden.

Also included in the revised collection are some of the best of the Heritage Roses specifically chosen for their hardiness and disease resistance in this region; the “Romantica” line of roses from Meilland, rose hybridizer from France, including ‘Traviata,’ a red hybrid tea rose, which was listed as one of the garden’s top ten roses of disease resistance in 2008; the “Easy Elegance” rose collection from Bailey Nurseries and the hybridizing efforts of Ping Lim; a collection of “EarthKind” roses and the new Kordes varieties from Germany, hybridized to be specifically disease resistant. Five Kordes varieties currently grown at The Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden are now included in the EarthKind rose trials across the US.

The Great Rosarians™ Award recognizes the significance of this renovation which has resulted in creating a sustainable public garden representing an outstanding collection of roses that provides the public the necessary knowledge to choose roses that can be grown without harming the environment.



Our fourth GROW™ Rose Garden Hall of Fame honoree is the **David Austin Rose Garden** located on the site of David Austin Rose Nursery, Albrighton, Wolverhampton, UK. The garden evolved from an idea of Mr. Austin's to plant many of the roses he was using in his breeding program and grew as time and funds became available. The first section planted is now the Long Garden which displays a large collection of climbing roses on the pergola while box wood lined beds are filled with roses and companion plantings. The Renaissance Garden is undoubtedly one of the splendors of the rose world when in full bloom. A large part of the English Rose collection is planted along emerald green serpentine grass paths lined with low trimmed box wood. Each variety is planted out with three to five of each cultivar giving an unbelievable display at peak bloom. Best visited in early summer (as are all British rose gardens) the display and fragrance is intoxicating.



The Renaissance garden at the Austin Nursery  
– photo by Clair Martin

The purpose of these awards is to promote a wider knowledge and appreciation of these garden treasures to the rose growing world and the gardening public.

Former GROW™ honorees are asked to nominate up to three rose gardens each that they consider worthy of the induction into the GROW™ Rose Garden Hall of Fame. The GROW organizing committee makes the final selection and announces the awards at the GROW™ West program in San Marino, California and at the GROW™ East event in New York City each year.

To be considered for the award a rose garden must be open to the public (with or without a fee); be recognized as having an outstanding design or historical significance; display an outstanding collection or broad display of roses; and/or promote rose growing with educational outreach programs.

Congratulations to this year's honorees. Each garden honored is a prime example of excellence in rose culture, preservation, and public outreach.

## Roses in California

by Bill Grant, USA

In the 1850s there were rose nurseries established in Los Angeles and in the Central Valley, including many imported from France. So we know some of the heritage roses were here from that time. No doubt immigrants from Europe had brought plants or cuttings on their own.

In addition, there were native, species roses in different parts of the U.S.: for instance *Rosa virginiana*, *R. arkansana*, and, of course, *R. californica*, which can be found in many parts of the state. The world's smallest rose, *R. minutifolia*, can be found on the hillsides between San Diego and Mexico.

Near the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, roses were grown in many private gardens. The climber 'Fortune's Double Yellow' became a runaway best seller in Southern California. The rise in popularity of the Hybrid Tea was dramatic after the First World War.

Gallicas, Rugosas, Albas and those of earlier times never really caught on as their availability was rare. And the promotion of the hybrid teas was so strong that it was hard to find other kinds. I grew up in Los Angeles in the 1930s, and I never saw any other kind of rose. My mother bought the latest ones after visiting several large nurseries.

After World War II, a more sophisticated list became available – polyanthas, miniatures, some climbers like 'Paul's Scarlet Climber' and 'Mlle Cecile Brunner' could be found everywhere. When groups associated with the American Rose Society became popular, Chinas, Teas, and Noisettes, perfect for the climate, became available.

The Huntington Botanic Garden near Los Angeles was the repository for many roses beginning in the 1930s. Only in the past few years was the largest collection of roses in California established in San Jose, and its emphasis is on not only the modern but a wide range of heritage roses. The late Mel Hulse was responsible for maintaining the 4000 plants, whose work today is continued by many volunteers.

One of the most interesting collections is found in the Sacramento Pioneer Cemetery where over 400 heritage roses planted by the graves are kept by a group that holds an annual celebration in the spring which brings thousands of visitors.

Nearly every nursery offers a variety of plants in the autumn and spring, although those that have specialized in the heirloom roses have experienced difficult times. There is yet to be established a state rose garden of a size and quality that would reflect the fascinating history of the rose in California.

## Aussie Sixer

*by Viru Viraraghavan, India*

Australia and India are two countries in which cricket has become almost a religion. One of the most spectacular achievements on the cricket field is the 'sixer' – when a batsman hits the ball so hard that it lifts up high and sails over the field and into the stadium, earning him six runs to his total.

Similarly in the field of rose books, the new book on Tea Roses, written by six enterprising, indefatigable and knowledgeable ladies from Australia, is a spectacular achievement.

Just as the Tea Rose Book is a sparkling new assessment of what is old, the parentage of my 'Aussie Sixer' is a combination of the best of old and hopefully of the new – one of the oldest of Tea roses, 'Safrano' combined with the Noisette, 'Reve d'Or' and the species *Rosa gigantea* itself. In other words, 'Aussie Sixer' is the result of crossing Safrano x my 'Manipur Magic' (*R. gigantea* x Reve d'Or). We were keen to name a rose to honour the tremendous work done by the six ladies, and after getting their permission, we have named this seedling of ours 'Aussie Sixer'. It has been sent to the International Rose Registration Authority for registration. We hope in the coming years to have it available in Australia. It already is, in the USA.



Aussie Sixer

